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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/822,332	04/02/2001	Alan L. Kregel	BS00-079	7320

28970 7590 03/03/2004

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MCLEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER

CUMMING, WILLIAM D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2683

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

***Response to Amendment***

1. The reply filed on February 24, 2004 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because:

Applicant's attorney failed to address paragraph 10 of the Office action of November 26, 2003. Applicant's attorney failed to provide any good and sufficient reason for the claims retention during pendency in more than one application. Since both application claims the same and common subject matter, with being amended 09/822,322 being broader of the two, the applications do not maintain a clear line of demarcation between the applications. See MPEP §822.

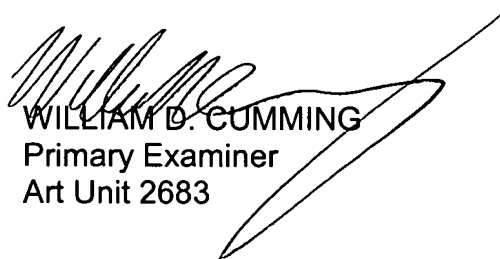
2. Since the period for reply set forth in the prior Office action has expired, this application will become abandoned unless applicant corrects the deficiency and obtains an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

3. The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the **SIX (6) MONTH** statutory period or obtain an extension for more than **FIVE (5) MONTHS** beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **WILLIAM D. CUMMING** whose telephone number is 703-305-4394. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Wednesday, 11:30am to 8:00pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **WILLIAM TROST** can be reached on 703-308-5318. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
WILLIAM D. CUMMING  
Primary Examiner  
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Wdc



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